

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated December 4, 2002, the specification was objected to; and claims 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over EP Patent 0695853 A2 (Zeller). Claims 2-8 and 16-18 were allowed, and claims 10-13 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 10 has been amended into independent form, incorporating the subject of former independent claim 9. Claim 10 is thus now in condition for allowance, as indicated by the Office Action. The scope of claim 10 remains unchanged.

Each of independent claims 2 and 8 have been amended to address typographical errors. The scope of claims 2 and 8 remain unchanged.

Claim 19 has been amended to further recite that the sensor highway comprises a conduit through which the sensors and optical cables are adapted to be moved from one location to another location. This feature is not disclosed by Zeller.

New independent claims 30 and 39 are also allowable over Zeller. With respect to independent claim 30, Zeller does not disclose a conduit containing a communication cable and a sensor coupled to the cable, with the cable and sensor adapted to be deployed through the conduit from a first location to a second location, in combination with a barrier fluid assembly containing a first barrier fluid to isolate well fluids from fluid in the conduit. Claim 39 is allowable because Zeller fails to disclose deploying a cable and sensor through a conduit extended into the well, and isolating well fluids from fluid in the conduit with a barrier fluid in a barrier fluid assembly.

For the foregoing reasons, all claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Applicant will submit formal drawings to address the Draftsperson's objections upon receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SNS.0007US).

Respectfully submitted,

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